NSA Eyes Vietnam War, Vote

Richard N. Goodwin, former speech writer and assistant to Presidents Johnson and Kennedy yesterday claimed "there has never been such intent and widespread deception and confusion as surrounds this (Vietnam) war."

Mr. Goodwin told the National Student Association's 20th national meeting at Maryland University that the administration has either made a grave miscalculation of the war "or else the leaders have misled themselves and the American people."

Speaking with Mr. Goodwin, William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs, turned his attention to the much-maligned September elections in South Vietnam.

He said while there would probably be "a reasonable standard of fairness," he compared the elections to those held in the United States in the 19th Century, implying they would not be as fair as those held here today.

Mr. Bundy insisted there is "very free expression during the campaign," but added that South Vietnam is inexperienced in free elections, and carrying out an election during the war is also a problem.

"The possibility for a really free determination" by all the South Vietnamese will have to wait for a time when "external interference" has been removed, he said. In the meantime, he claimed the administration is doing all it can to make the election as open as possible.

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